Prices of Steel

2931. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the international price of steel during the last three years and how does it compare with steel prices in India year-wise and what are the reasons for large variations;

(b) what has been the internal demand and supply for the steel for the last three years and how the gap was met or proposed to be met in near future including import outgo of foreign exchange alongwith investment made in steel sector-public and private-separately for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) detail of chronically sick steel units in public sector and action taken to privatise them; modernise them and details of plan proposals during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No reliable information about prices in other countries comparable to domestic prices is available.

(b) The total production and the assessed demand of finished steel during the last three years was as under:

(In Million tonnes)

Year	Production	Assessed Demand
1989-90	13.00	14.98
1990-91	13.53	15.52
1991-92	14.20 (Prov.)	16.35

The gap was partly met through import of steel. The total quantity and value of finished steel imported during the last three years was as a under:

Year	Quantity (in million tonnes)	Value (in Crores/Rs.)
1989-90	1.46	1562
1990-91	1.25	1382
1991-92	1.01	1360

(NB: Import through major ports only)

The Plan expenditure for the Ministry of Steel during the last three years was as under:

1989-90 — Rs. 2460.72 Crores
1990-91 — Rs. 2295.93 Crores
1991-92 — Rs. 2720.60 Crores

No reliable information about investment in private sector is available.

(c) While Indian Iron and Steel Company has been incurring losses, it has shown improvement in the recent past; the steel unit of the Company does not fall, therefore, under the chronically sick category. Eighth Plan provision for modernisation of the unit is Rs. 300 Crores which is not adequate for the purpose. Therefore, Government have constituted a Committee of Experts for exploring possibilities of private participation in the Company. Its recommendations are likely to be submitted in January, 1993.

Procurement of Safety Shoes by Durgapur Steel Plant

2932. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Durgapur Steel Plant has finalised the procurement of safety shoes;

(b) whether Public Sector Undertakings are not being considered for such supplies; and

(c) if so, the facts and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The offers of the Central/State Public Sector Undertakings and of the Small Scale Industry (SSI) Units have been considered by SAIL (DSP).

(c) Does not arise.